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Dear Mr. de Antonio,

Your book went out this morning and I hope this, too, can catch today's mail, for I am very interested in the Fisher who wrote the nasty review and where it appeared. I have heard nothing of it, and it is the first, aside from some guide news stories. I'd very much appreciate a copy, for out in the country we see and hear less of these things, and our finances are such that we can afford and have few subscriptions.

To answer your questions: I have been in touch with Dave Jones, thanks. He phoned me and has ordered copies of Whitewash. He says he's heard it is by far the best yet, which does not make me unhappy.

Actually, since deciding to go ahead with the private printing, for which I prepared initially a year ago, I have sought no offers. Since then, and almost immediately thereafter, I got three hardback offers that I rejected with a counteroffer: take over and rush this edition until you own is out and then recall this one. None said no, none accepted. I did turn down the Fawcett offer for paperback because it had conditions I could not accept and because it was, I believe, inadequate. I have decided to go for broke on this. I'll take a good offer, nothing less. There are other interests that I cannot really evaluate and do not try to. I'll let time bring what is coming.

It is, however, my opinion that there are not now too many hardback books for all to get good paperback offers if the books have the quality. So, I don't really care if Epstein's is taken first, or Lane's. I gather from the flibbity and hour by hands of their ads that Holt is worried. I know from other sources that World is. Frankly, I am not, and I am doing nothing to attract a paperback offer. The book will earn it or I will not have it. This means it has all the difficulties of the others to overcome and more of its own and unique character. I am confident it will do this, as I am, without intending anything uncomplimentary about any other book, that it is the most viable one. I may have made the wrong decision, but I have made it and I am not at all troubled by it. Every day indicates more and more how right I am. Today I got a phoned reorder of 500 from one of the five distributors handling the book and mailed out from here 38 that were ordered by mail. Of course, I have yet to give the printer a cent, and it will take the entire gross of this edition to pay its actual costs alone, aside from the great cost of doing the book itself. But this one distributor got 500 only three weeks ago!

Thanks for the mention of Peter Martin and Eli Wilentz. They both said they would handle the book and I referred each to a distributor, I hope they have it and that you can see your way clear, when you know the book, to encourage them to do something with it. People assume a private printing is available from only the author. We have lost many sales from this, as have the bookstores. Those who display it do very well with it. It sells much more slowly where they do not. Someone else has spoken to Ferlinghetti, who I know only by reputation. He is worried about the price (as am I), but there is nothing I can do about that. He should have heard of the book from a 2-hour phone broadcast I made in San Fransisco last week. There are 500 copies in California, but the distributor had none in that city! I presume you know I was on Long John and several other talk programs and more are pending. Thanks and good luck in your project.